

Equine

WEST NILE virus (WNV) continues to be of concern to Indiana horse owners. The Indiana State Department of Health will be collecting samples of insects to monitor for WNV infection. BOAH has produced a spring health guide for horse owners that can be obtained through the office. Horse owners may receive a copy of the health guide or direct questions to BOAH's email at animalhealth@boah.state.in.us.

THE FEDERAL rule regarding slaughter horses is in effect, which requires paperwork and tags accompany each slaughter horse transported. The rule also phases out the use of double decker trucks over five years.

SAVE/Disaster Preparedness

THE STATE Emergency Management Agency hosted, in March, a week of one-day classes addressing critical skills in emergency response. BOAH taught the 8-hour Animal Issues in Disasters course Mar. 13, at the Miami County Fairgrounds in Peru. The course will be taught again Sept. 10, at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh. The class is open to veterinarians, extension educators, emergency management coordinators, animal control personnel and others who may be tasked to assist in an emergency. The class covers foreign animal disease outbreaks, responding after natural disasters and the components of developing a local animal response plan. Eight hours of continuing education credit is available, with approval. Contact BOAH to enroll.

A **SHORT** version of the Animal Issues in Disasters class was presented Apr. 17 via satellite with the assistance of Purdue Extension Service. The 3 1/2-hour class is available on video tape through BOAH or Purdue Extension. The class focuses on developing a local preparedness plan for natural and man-made disasters. Local officials, animal/commodity groups and others are welcome to borrow the tapes, which include manuals and worksheets, for awareness and planning meetings. Contact BOAH for more information Denise Derrer at 317/227-0308 or Shandy Froedge at 317/227-0347 or email animalhealth@boah.state.in.us.



Indiana State Board of Animal Health
805 Beachway Drive, Suite 50
Indianapolis, IN 46224-7785

issues



(left to right) Dr. Tom Conner and Dr. George Meyer examine a deer head to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Message from the State Veterinarian

THE INDIANA State Board of Animal Health has had a long-standing policy of checking certificates of veterinary inspection and animals at the Indiana State Fair, county 4-H fairs and other exhibitions held in Indiana. Because of the recent budget shortfalls at the state level, BOAH will not be conducting as many inspections at exhibitions this year. The agency has attempted to have a presence at every 4-H fair to review health documentation and help to check in livestock. BOAH staff members have also checked animals at other shows upon request of the event organizers and at the discretion of the Board.

While leaner financial times call for trimming services, BOAH is committed to maintaining a level of involvement to protect animal health at these events. In the past, BOAH has hired five first- or second-year veterinary students from Purdue University to perform these county fair inspections. Under the current budget situation BOAH will be able to hire only three interns for the coming summer. Even so, we plan to provide the same level of inspection at the Indiana State Fair as has been provided in recent years. However, the Indiana county fair inspection schedule will be assigned on a random basis. In December, each county received a form to request inspection service by May 1. Requests received on or before May 1 will receive priority. The exact number of county fairs BOAH will cover will be determined after considering all factors.

Exhibition organizers should note that state exhibition requirements are legal requirements that exhibitors must meet even if state staff is not available to make inspection at every show. BOAH has encouraged organizers to contract with private veterinarians for inspection service, since nothing in state policies or laws prevents an exhibition from contracting with these private individuals.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact the office at 317/227-0300 or email us at animalhealth@boah.state.in.us. We look forward to working with everyone this summer and we will do our best to meet everyone's needs.

Bret D. Marsh, D.V.M.

Board Members:

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Chairman

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Ivan Rimstidt, DVM

Merrill Kelsay

Bruce McDavitt, DVM

Bret D Marsh, DVM

State Veterinarian

317/227-0300

bmarsh@boah.state.in.us

Doug Metcalf

Chief of Staff

317/227-0321

dmetcalf@boah.state.in.us

Nancy Rosa

Administration

317/227-0309

nrosa@boah.state.in.us

Sandra KL Norman, DVM

Companion Animals/Equine

317/227-0320

snorman@boah.state.in.us

Paul Dieterlen, DVM

Meat & Poultry

317/227-0355

pdieterlen@boah.state.in.us

Gary Haynes, JD

Legal Affairs/Enforcement

317/227-0345

ghaynes@boah.state.in.us

George Jones

Dairy Products

317/227-0350

gjones@boah.state.in.us

Thomas Conner, DVM

Cattle/Ruminant

317/227-0315

tconner@boah.state.in.us

Michael Kopp, DVM

Avian

317/227-0324

mkopp@boah.state.in.us

John Johnston, DVM

Swine

317/227-0310

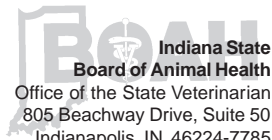
jjohnston@boah.state.in.us

Denise Derrer

Public Information

317/227-0308

dderrer@boah.state.in.us



**Indiana State
Board of Animal Health**

Office of the State Veterinarian

805 Beachway Drive, Suite 50

Indianapolis, IN 46224-7785

317/227-0300

Toll Free: 877/747-3038

Fax: 317/227-0330

www.state.in.us/boah

BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular meeting, members took the following actions:

- Approved an emergency rule suspending the importation of all cervidae (such as deer, elk, etc.) into Indiana for one year. The emergency rule was passed in response to many outbreaks of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin, South Dakota and Alberta, Canada. A public hearing will be held at the July board meeting for further comment on the permanent rule, before a final vote is taken.
- Approved the proposed rule concerning the disposal of dead animals. The amended law establishes guidelines for meat and poultry processing plants to use composting as a disposal option.
- Approved a proposal to clarify exemptions to the certificate of veterinary inspection requirement for cattle sold intrastate. The proposed amendment makes minor changes to the law governing livestock dealers and markets and the sale of animals.
- Approved the proposed rule to amend the state law concerning anthrax. The proposed rule updates current regulations regarding detection, control and eradication.

Meat & Poultry

STATE-INSPECTED establishments slaughtered 25,689 cattle; 44,006 swine; 5,469 sheep; 1,625 goats; 80 bison; 26 elk; 96 ostrich; 48 emu and one farm-raised fallow deer. Custom-exempt establishments slaughtered 15, 634 livestock and 71,594 poultry last quarter.

Avian

THE VIRGINIA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has reported the latest outbreak of low-pathogenic avian influenza has infected over 100 flocks and more than 2 million birds. Of those 2 million birds, 1.6 million have been destroyed or slaughtered for market, which surpasses the 1.5 million turkeys that were destroyed during the avian influenza epidemic of 1983-84.

Companion Animal

THE COMPANION Animal Advisory committee met in March and discussed several topics including licensure of exotic animals (wolf-hybrids, large cats). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will be having public hearings in May on the new proposed rules concerning nuisance wildlife control and licensed operators.

FELINE EXHIBITION requirements include a feline leukemia test within six months prior to the event. Also, all dogs and cats must have a one-year rabies vaccination to meet exhibition requirements in 2002. However, exhibition requirements will be changing in 2003 to reflect the new state law that recognizes a three-year rabies vaccination. Exhibitors could get their three-year rabies vaccination this year (2002) and be in compliance for the following two years because of the law change. It is important that exhibitors understand that the three-year vaccination will only be honored starting in 2003. The rule change simply gives pet owners more options, the three-year vaccination will not be mandatory as pet owners may choose to continue vaccinating for rabies on a yearly basis. Pet owners should consult their veterinarian when making a decision on 2003 vaccinations.

Cattle/Ruminant

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE: Deer, elk and other cervid species are prohibited

from importation into the state of Indiana. Board members adopted this emergency rule in an effort to protect the state's free-ranging and farm-raised cervids from chronic wasting disease. The prohibition will run through May 1, 2003, if the Board members vote to make the rule permanent at their July 2 meeting. Recently, South Dakota reported one infected deer running at large and Wisconsin reported 14 infected whitetail deer, also free-ranging. Alberta, Canada has one infected elk farm and officials are still researching the traces of animals sold.

BOAH IS working with Indiana Department of Natural Resources to establish a chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing strategy for free-ranging native deer. The project will likely center around hunting season and check stations.

TUBERCULOSIS: TEXAS has reported two infected cattle herds since last summer. Texas maintains a split free status by federal definition. El Paso and Hudspeth Counties both contain dairy animals that seem to develop tuberculosis despite efforts to control the disease. State officials plan to depopulate these animals and use the pens for feeders only. Michigan continues to pursue a split state status for tuberculosis. Live Michigan imports must continue to meet Indiana requirements of a whole-herd test and negative individual test within 60 days of entry.

SCRAPIE-INFECTED flocks total climbs to four in Indiana. Several Hoosier flocks are being visited and evaluated since status is pending. Indiana has 36 flocks enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification and 23 flocks in various stages of the application process.

THREE CASES of brucellosis have been reported in Texas in the past fiscal year. The last case was in January 2002 and was determined to be caused by strain 19 vaccine. Texas will be eligible to apply for free status in December 2002. South Dakota reported brucellosis in two Bison bulls about 18 months old. All female animals tested negative. State officials continue to take a closer look at herd history to determine the origin of infection. Missouri reported two infected cattle herds and Idaho reported one infected elk.

Swine

THE UNITED States has achieved the goal of zero quarantined herds in the National Pseudorabies Eradication Program. Iowa's last quarantined premise was released in mid-January. Indiana will be eligible for Stage V status (declared free of pseudorabies) on Nov. 1, 2002, if no new infection is found.

Dairy

THE DAIRY Division initiated special sampling of dairy farm wells in the Jasper and Newton County areas near the town of Roselawn in April. A local elementary school in the area had detected Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) in its well water. MTBE is an additive to gasoline that can leach into underground aquifers due to spillage or leaking storage tanks. Results showed no evidence of MTBE in the wells tested.

DUTCH KASE Haus, Inc. of Middlebury, Indiana's largest cheesemaker, is under new ownership as of Mar. 28, 2002. Agropur Cooperative of Canada is the largest farmer-owned cooperative in Canada and operates eight cheese factories and nine milk bottling plants that process more than four billion pounds of milk per year.

THE FOOD and Drug Administration (FDA) is required to evaluate each state's Grade A dairy program by the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments on a periodic basis. FDA found the state of Indiana to be conducting the Grade A milk program in compliance with national guidelines.

Openings New BOAH Staff Positions

BOAH is recruiting for an **Area Veterinarian**. Duties include disease program functions, epidemiology, consulting with producers and private practitioners and sample collections. Frequent, regular contact with the public requires an attitude for customer service.

BOAH also has a **Program Coordinator 6** position available. This person will act as an administrative assistant to the veterinarians leading the Scrapie Eradication Program. Qualified candidates should be familiar with data entry, able to interpret animal health rules and enjoy working with the public.

Interested individuals should contact Doug Metcalf, Chief of Staff, at 317/227-0321 or email animalhealth@boah.state.in.us.